



Notice the tones of the syllable we in:

ìwě            ìwě nī            ìwé 'kínī

Concerning the tone of the second syllable of we before ' , see p. 53.

5. The meaning of àgò.

The word àgò is used when asking others to make way for one, or instead of knocking at the door of a house. Abraham (p.30) explains yà in àgò\yà ò as meaning that 'the necessity for saying àgò has been removed'.

The tone of the second syllable of ago need not concern us here. Neither of the tone changes exemplified in this dialogue is arbitrary, however; each is paralleled by countless other forms in Yoruba.

C. Exercises.

Practice the following pairs of expressions so that when you hear either member of a pair you can respond immediately with the other member. Practice each of the three groups separately at first. Then combine them.

1. Noun plus nī.

a. 'Low-rise nouns'

ìwě	'book'	ìwě nī	'it is a book'
òpǎ	'walking stick'	òpǎ nī	etc.
kẹ̀kẹ̀	'bicycle'	kẹ̀kẹ̀ nī	

b. 'Low-low nouns'

ẹ̀wù	'shirt'	ẹ̀wù nī
bàtà	'shoe'	bàtà nī
òkò	'spear'	òkò nī

## c. 'Low-mid nouns'

òbẹ̀	'knife'	òbẹ̀ nī
ìbọ̀n	'gun'	ìbọ̀n nī
òbọ̀	'monkey'	òbọ̀ nī

2. Nouns with ˘kínī. Remember to practice each group separately at first.

## a. 'Low-rise nouns'

ìwě	ìwě ˘kínī
ọ̀pá	ọ̀pá ˘kínī
kẹ̀kẹ̀	kẹ̀kẹ̀ ˘kínī

## b. 'Low-mid nouns'

òbẹ̀	òbẹ̀ ˘kínī
ìbọ̀n	ìbọ̀n ˘kínī
òbọ̀	òbọ̀ ˘kínī

## c. 'Low-low nouns'

ẹ̀wù	ẹ̀wù ˘kínī
bàtà	bàtà ˘kínī
ọ̀kọ̀	ọ̀kọ̀ ˘kínī

3. Nouns with nī vs. nouns with ˘kínī.

a.	ìwě nī	ìwě ˘kínī
	ọ̀pá nī	ọ̀pá ˘kínī
	kẹ̀kẹ̀ nī	kẹ̀kẹ̀ ˘kínī

b.	òbẹ́ nī	òbẹ́ ˘kínī
	ìbọ̀n nī	ìbọ̀n ˘kínī
c.	ẹ̀wù nī	ẹ̀wù ˘kínī
	bàtà nī	bàtà ˘kínī
	òkọ́ nī	òkọ́ ˘kínī

D. Supplementary material.

## 1. Miscellaneous useful nouns.

āṣọ́	'cloth'	
ìṣīrò	'counting, arithmetic'	
yōrùbǎ	'Yoruba'	
àwòtélé	'article of clothing worn under another'	
ilé`wě	'school'	
āgbá dá	'man's outer garment'	
īṣé	'work'	
àpǒtí	àpǒtí nī	
	àpǒtí ˘kínī	
	àpǒtí āṣọ́ nī	'it's a clothes box'
	àpǒtí iwě nī	'it's a book box'
iwě	iwě nī	
	iwě ˘kínī	
	iwě ìṣīrò nī	'it's an arithmetic book'
	iwě ˘yōrùbǎ nī	'it's a Yoruba book'

ẹ̀wù	ẹ̀wù nī	
	ẹ̀wù ˈkínī	
	ẹ̀wù àwòtẹ̀lẹ̀ nī	'its an undergarment' (not necessarily underwear)
	ẹ̀wù āgbáda nī	'it's an <u>āgbáda</u> '
	ẹ̀wù ɪ̀sé nī	'it's a garment for work'
bàtà	bàtà nī	
	bàtà ˈkínī	
	bàtà ˈsé nī	'they are work shoes'

Practice these 3-line conversations until you can go through each after hearing its cue word.

The final sentence in each of these sets contains a construction which consists of one noun (e.g. àpòtí) followed by another (e.g. āṣò). Notice that in this construction elision does not take place (i.e. no mora is lost as we go from full form to casual form). Assimilation of vowel quality may or may not take place. It is more likely to take place when the particular combination of nouns happens to be a frequent one.

### UNIT 5

A. BASIC DIALOGUE: 'How are you doing?... Did you sell the knife?....'

A

ẹ̀wò		what? which?
ṣ̄ē		do, make
ẹ̀wò lẹ̀ ṣ̄ē	Èwo ni ẹ̀ ṣ̄ē?	How are you doing?